



RENTON MUNICIPAL ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES

December 6, 2016

Renton City Hall, 7th Floor –Conference Center

Members Present:

Marsha Rollinger, Mary Clymer, Mitch Shepherd, Adrienne La Faye, Paul Hebron, Neil Sheesley, Bill Huls, Samantha Goetz-Granquist, Ben Andrews, Aaron Blalack, and Evelyn Reingold

Excused Absence: Jerri Everett

Staff Present: Elizabeth Higgins, RMAC Staff Liaison; Chip Vincent, Administrator - City of Renton Department Community & Economic Development; Clark Close, City of Renton and Vanessa Dolbee, City of Renton

Guests Present: Stephan Platt, Cosmos Development; Judith and Daniel Caldwell, Caldwell Studio

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by RMAC - Chair, Marsha Rollinger at 6:05 pm.

***Renton Heritage Apartments Update – Stephan Platt, Cosmos Development** - The complex is nearing completion with 101 residential units and 3553 sq. ft. of commercial space. It also has some improvements done with City of Renton Transportation Capital Project funds for new curbs, gutters and sidewalks which dictate the inclusion of some dedicated space for public art. They have been working with the Caldwell Studio Artists, Judith and Daniel Caldwell, on design ideas for the exterior sidewalks.

***Public Art Project Proposal – Clark Close, City of Renton** - “City of Payrolls” will feature the history, ecology of past and present turn of the century companies in bronze inlays in the exterior payment near the apartment complex. Several design concepts that the City liked were presented. The designs and concepts were discussed by the artists and the RMAC. It was thought that the references to the turn of the century business were too ambiguous and cluttered. They needed fewer images which would still give the viewer a sense of discovery. It was also thought that there should be a reference of the companies for more public awareness. Therefore, a motion was made: “The art should consist of standalone bronze plaques with a wall plaque for the historical references for each company represented.” **(MSC/ Paul and Mary)**

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the November 1, 2016 were read and accepted. **MSC (Mitch/Adrienne)**

Correspondence and Announcements:

***December 1, 2016 Local Arts Agency Meeting** – RMAC members took a city van to the Vashon Island Arts Center. The new state-of-art center had pledges and grants for over \$1 million dollars and the 2017 operating budget is estimated at \$1.6 million dollars for programs, classes and their gallery store which supports local Vashon Island artists.

***Happy Delusions, “Bad Santa Photo Booth” – Handsome Devil Ink 719 S 4th Street (12/18/2016).**

Visitors must be at least 18 years old. Photo cost discount with food/toy for a local food bank.

***Highlands Library Mural** - The large (9'x12') Jacob Elshin 1930's mural of Coal Miners is in an unprotected empty building. This is a valuable item in Renton's public Art collection. Motion made: "The RMAC will facilitate moving this art temporally to the Arts Unlimited Gallery space until a move suitable location is found." **(MSC/ Mary and Samantha)**

***Other** - Correspondence and event folders were circulated for individual review.

Budget Update:

***2016 Budget** – The current budget status as of December 2016 was presented and accepted.

*** 2017 Budget Discussion** – The RMAC needs to prioritize the Galvanizing Arts projects we presented to the Mayor and City Council. In addition to the City's allocation, we should start getting more 1% for arts funds from all City of Renton capital projects, beyond transportation. Each project has to have a guaranteed line item in their budget.

New Business:

***Election of 2017 Officers:** Nominations were made: Mitch Shepherd, Chair; Mary Clymer, Vice Chair; and Evelyn Reingold, Secretary. Motion: "The nominations are elected as submitted." **(MSC/ Bill and Marsha)**

*** Galvanizing Art Band Concert** – Neil Sheesley and Bill Huls have the event scheduled for Friday, December 30, 2016 at the Renton Civic Theater. Band TBD

Old Business:

*** Arts Unlimited Griot Gallery Update** – Paul Hebron reported that 10-15 visitors stop by each day at the Cortona Building space. They have a 7 year lease with the first year rent free. Funding has been secured from 4Culture and other sources. Phase I has started with meetings with architects. Phase II/III fundraising and building partnerships and memberships is in work.

***Kim Beaton's RenCon Dragon** – Elizabeth reported that the Highlands Library was proposed for a location for the dragon sculpture. This was put on hold as the current library construction could take up to 2 years. The dragon is for sale for \$25,000 and not the estimated \$12,500 as thought. Ben stated that the Downtown Partnership is willing to contribute to the purchase via a "Go Fund Me" campaign in honor of the sustaining Piazza Group. The RenCon Dragon would be privately owned under this arrangement.

***South 2nd & Main Public Art Project Update** – Mary Clymer and Mitch Shepherd and the Studio OHM artists are working closely with affected Renton City departments. Discussions have started with fabricators costs will be brought to the RMAC. Renton's IT department is on board to discuss the technology involved with the artwork. The design is intended to engage the public with dynamic lighting and apps for on-site involvement.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Evelyn Reingold,
RMAC Secretary

Marsha Rollinger,
Chair